

FUEL CELL END PLATE ASSEMBLY

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Fuel cell systems incorporate end plate assemblies used to compress the fuel cell stack and/or to collect current from the fuel cell stack. A fuel cell system includes a fuel cell stack having fuel cells stacked in a predetermined stacking direction. Multi-function or multi-region compression end plate assemblies are disposed at the ends of a fuel cell stack. A multi-region compression end plate assembly involves compression mechanisms configured to preferentially compress separate areas of the fuel cell stack. A multi-function end plate assembly employs a current collector passing through an end plate to collect current from the fuel cell stack. The current collector may be used to preferentially compress a region of the fuel cell stack.